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Hundreds of international students in limbo after Scarborough, Ont., college suspends spring enrolment

Hundreds of international students who paid a Scarborough college upwards of \$15,000 in tuition say their enrolment has been unilaterally suspended - placing their study permits in jeopardy.

Harnampreet Kaur recently completed her first semester at Alpha College of Business and Technology, an affiliate of St. Lawrence College, when she received an email on May 17 informing her that her spring semester enrolment had been suspended.



Kaur is among dozens of students who have been protesting night and day in front of Alpha College on Kennedy Road.

International students' lives are "totally incomplete without the enrolment letter," she said, as it is "the main proof that we are declared as students in Canada."

Fellow student Ekam Noor says some Alpha students still in India received an offer letter and paid fees, only to be told they would not get an enrolment letter.

"The students who are still in India, who have not come here yet, the college give them an offer letter and they took their fees. They paid around \$16,000 for two semesters, and after that they told them that they cannot come to Canada because they are not providing them a letter of enrolment," Noor said.

"That's a problem for them because they have lost their fees and they cannot come here to finish this study."

"The students want the college to

guarantee in writing that they'll be able to graduate on schedule.

However, Alpha president Vivian Liu said a break semester is a typical part of the school year and should not impact students' ability to apply for a post-graduate work permit.

"All students who meet enrolment requirements remain active students," she said in a statement to CBC News released via St. Lawrence College that did not address students' study permit concerns.

Liu said the school proposed "alternative enrolment options" as a result of increased winter and spring semester demands.

"It's really destroying my mental health."

Harnampreet Kaur says the events of the past week have taken a toll on students' mental health.

"We come from our country to here with lots of dreams, with lots of hope," she said. "Our family, our relatives are not there to support us. It's really destroying my mental health."

Ramanpreet Kaur says everything

A major clean-up effort is underway following Saturday's fierce storm that left at least ten dead and hundreds of thousands without power after it swept across southern Ontario.

The towns of Uxbridge, north of Toronto, and Clarence-Rockland, east of Ottawa, have declared states of emergency and crews from the Northern Tornadoes Project (NTP) have been dispatched to determine if a tornado touched down in those areas.

Environment Canada says a top wind speed of 132 km/h was recorded at Kitchener-Waterloo airport at the height of the storm on Saturday. Pearson International Airport in Toronto recorded a top gust of 120 km/h while Toronto Island Airport saw wind speeds of 89 km/h.

The level of damage came in part from the nature of the storm, which looks to have been what is called a derecho, something that is a fairly rare occurrence in Canada, according to Dr. David Sills, the executive director of the NTP at Western University.

"They occur south of the border, probably a couple of times a year. In Canada, the last time I remember a derecho causing high impact damage in an urban area was in the 1990s," Sills tells CityNews.

"Derechos" can also produce tornadoes along their leading edge and we think there may have been at least a couple and we're investigating those [Sunday].

Watches and warnings for the fast moving system prompted Environment Canada to send a text alert to Ontarians - the agency's first use of the broadcast-interrupting weather alert system for a thunderstorm - warning of a "dangerous and potentially life-threatening situation."

"Usually it's only a tornado where it goes over alert ready and people get it on their cell phones but they made the decision a year or two ago that, if there's a severe thunderstorm that

Clean-up continues after Ontario storm leaves 10 dead, thousands without power



looks very dangerous they'll also put that on alert ready, and that's what they did yesterday," said Sills.

Police say seven deaths in Ontario were caused by falling trees that were felled by the high winds - a 70-year-old woman in Brampton; a 44-year-old man in Greater Madawaska, west of Ottawa; a 59-year-old man at a golf course in the west end of Ottawa; a 74-year-old woman from Port Hope; a 69-year-old woman from Cornwall at a home in North Kawartha Township; a 30-year-old man in Ganaraska Forest in Durham Region; and one person who died at a camping trailer at Pinelawn Lake.

The same storm was responsible for the death of a woman in Quebec, who died when a boat she was in capsized in the Ottawa River near Masson-Angers.

An eighth person was killed by a falling tree branch in the storm's aftermath on Sunday.

On Monday, Peterborough police confirmed 10 deaths.

"Sadly, a 61-year-old lakefielder has succumbed to injuries suffered during the storm," officials said on social media.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is offering federal support to Ontario and Quebec to help with damage caused by the storms the day before.

In a tweet on Sunday, Trudeau wrote in part, "We're thinking of everyone affected, and thanking the crews who are working to restore power."

Hundreds of thousands remain without power as crews work non-stop to restore services, however, hydro providers are warning that it could take days for some to get power back.

"Between trees, branches, broken poles and wires down, it's really a very very messy messy cleanup," said

Canada storms: Nearly a million homes lose power in high winds

Nearly 900,000 homes in southern Canada were left without power on Saturday after a severe storm hit the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Seven people were killed by falling trees and a woman died when a boat capsized in the Ottawa River.

Wind gusts reached 82 mph (132 km/h) during the storm, according to Environment Canada.

Power company Hydro One, which covers Ontario, said it would take several days to reconnect every home.

Meanwhile, Hydro Quebec said 550,000 homes there lost power, with nearly 400,000 still suffering outages as of 10:00 local time (14:00 GMT) on Sunday.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted on Sunday evening that the federal government was preparing to step in to help those affected.

"The storms that swept across Ontario and Quebec yesterday caused serious damage, claimed several lives, and left many without power," Mr Trudeau said.

"We're thinking of everyone affected, and thanking the crews who are working to restore power - we stand ready to provide federal support if needed."

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Canada now has 10 confirmed cases of severe hepatitis in kids. Here's what to watch for

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has confirmed 10 cases of acute severe hepatitis in children.

The agency posted an update on their website Friday, confirming three cases in Alberta, two in Manitoba, four in Ontario, and one in Quebec.

The children, who are between one and 13 years old, became sick between November 3, 2021 and April 23, 2022, according to PHAC.

All of the diagnosed children were hospitalized. Two of them needed liver transplants. No deaths have been reported so far.

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Depending on the cause, the agency says the disease can be sudden and progress to liver failure over a few days to weeks.

"Some types of hepatitis can be treated and most cases recover. Acute, severe hepatitis in children is a rare condition in Canada, and in many cases, an underlying or contributing

cause is not known," the website states.

What is causing severe acute hepatitis in children?

The health agency says that the exact cause for this illness is not yet known, and investigators are still considering the possible causes of acute hepatitis.

However, one possible cause being explored is adenovirus, a common virus, which is known to cause cold or flu-like illness or gastroenteritis in children who are infected.

Could COVID-19 be the cause of hepatitis in kids?

COVID-19 may be behind the severe hepatitis cases in children according to a report posted last Saturday on medRxiv ahead of peer review.

Children with COVID-19 are at significantly increased risk for liver dysfunction afterward, the report said.

But most of the children with acute hepatitis did not report a previous COVID-19 infection. Instead, the majority were found to be infected with an adenovirus called 41F, which is not known to attack the liver.

It is possible that affected children, many of whom were too young to be vaccinated, may have had mild or asymptomatic COVID infections that went unnoticed, a separate team of researchers suggested in *The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology*.

If that's true, lingering particles of the coronavirus in the gastrointestinal tract in these children could be priming the immune system to overreact to adenovirus-41F with high amounts of inflammatory proteins that ultimately damage the liver, the researchers theorized.

Side effects from COVID-19 vaccines however, are not suspected since the vast majority of the affected children were too young to receive COVID-19 shots, according to the

World Health Organization. What are the symptoms? The government has provided a list of symptoms parents should look for in their kids on their website.

They include yellowing of the skin or eyes, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, dark urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite, fever, and fatigue.

The government is also advising parents to encourage children to wash their hands often, avoid people who are sick, and avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

What is Canada's health agency doing?

The PHAC says it's working with provinces, territories and international partners to investigate any reported cases of acute severe hepatitis in children not caused by known hepatitis viruses.

"All provinces and territories are working to identify and report potential cases to PHAC. This will help to further define the national scope in Canada, and help determine if cases in Canada are related to other cases reported around the world," the agency stated.

At this time, the agency does not know if there has been a spike in acute severe hepatitis cases in children "not caused by known hepatitis viruses."

"The global spread is concerning. That's not something that we are particularly used to with monkeypox," said Jason Kindrachuk, University of Manitoba assistant professor of viral pathogenesis and Canada Research Chair of emerging viruses who has researched monkeypox.

"What we're seeing right now is unprecedented. We have multiple geographic locations across the globe that are reporting cases... What is the epidemiological link between these cases and is there anything that is related back to changes within the virus?"

Is monkeypox mutating?

There are two main strains or "clades" of monkeypox: the Congo strain - which is more severe, with up to 10 per cent mortality - and the West African strain, which has a fatality rate of about one per cent.

Transmission can result from close contact with respiratory secretions or the skin lesions of an infected person or from recently contaminated objects. Symptoms can include fever, intense headache, swelling of the lymph nodes, back pain, muscle aches, a lack of energy, severe rashes and lesions.

The current strain circulating globally appears to be the West

Monkeypox outbreaks in Canada and worldwide signal shift in behaviour of virus

As the world races to understand more about rapidly emerging monkeypox outbreaks, the speed in which cases are being discovered signals a major shift in the behaviour of the virus and its ability to spread from person to person unaided.

Five cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in Quebec and Canada's chief public health officer said Friday provinces are continuing to investigate "a couple dozen" possible cases throughout Canada - with more likely to be confirmed in the days and weeks ahead.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday there are currently about 80 confirmed cases worldwide, with another 50 pending investigation and more likely to be reported as global surveillance expands.

West and Central Africa typically see thousands of endemic cases reported annually, but monkeypox cases outside of Africa are rare and largely limited to travel. What sets this global outbreak apart is the rise in cases with no known travel origin.

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Falling that, "we do have a vaccine," she said. "We also have drugs that could be deployed that would certainly help in containment."

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"Human behaviour has also shifted back and forth between some fairly extreme stances the last few years, and now we are in a position where this virus is likely finding it more easy to transmit."

"How is it being transmitted?"

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam said Friday that genomic sequencing is currently being done at the National Microbiology Lab in Winnipeg to confirm any more cases in the days and weeks ahead.

"We don't really know the extent to which the spread has occurred in Canada. That's under active investigation," she said during a news conference Friday.

"So far we do know that not many of these individuals are connected to travel to Africa where the disease is usually seen. So this is unusual... to see this many cases reported in different countries outside of Africa."

Tam said at the beginning of any outbreak, experts need to "cast a net wide" to try to understand the transmission routes of the virus, adding much remains unknown about this "seasonal situation."

"There's probably been some hidden chains of transmission that could have occurred for quite a number of weeks, given the global situation that we're seeing right now," she said.

"Most people haven't travelled, so how is it being transmitted?"

Hwang says the most important factor in determining if an outbreak like this is controllable, is whether symptoms occur before or after a person becomes infectious.

"If a person is infectious before they develop symptoms, it's very hard to control," he said, "with poxviruses, classically, that is not the case. So a person develops the rash and it is at that point that they become infectious."

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"Every reason to be concerned" about containment

Rasmussen says there are numerous ways monkeypox outbreaks can be contained through classic epidemiological measures such as contact tracing, isolating people who were infected and quarantining those who may have been exposed.

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Deputy Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Njoo said Friday that, since Canada stopped smallpox vaccination campaigns in the early 1970s, those under 50 would not have any protection while older Canadians' immunity has likely waned.

"Generally, the entire population is susceptible," to monkeypox, Njoo said during a news conference.

British health authorities took a bold step this week and moved to offer smallpox vaccines, which are somewhat effective against monkeypox, to some health-care workers and contacts who have been exposed - using a so-called ring vaccination strategy.

"There's every reason to be concerned about the capacity for containment, not least because of the fact that the weight of the containment is going to depend upon vaccines and very efficient use of them," said Hwang.

"And the larger the problem becomes, the worse the position that we're starting from. So I think it's quite unlikely to be easily containable, but I wouldn't say that it is not necessarily containable. It's roll-up-your-sleeves and go-to-work time."

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"Human behaviour has also shifted back and forth between some fairly extreme stances the last few years, and now we are in a position where this virus is likely finding it more easy to transmit."

"How is it being transmitted?"

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Canada, other nations stage walkout at APEC meeting over Russia's war on Ukraine

Delegates from the United States and four other nations staged a walkout Saturday when a representative from Russia began his opening remarks at a meeting of trade ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group in the Thai capital, officials said.

A Japanese official said Japan's Trade Minister Koichi Hagiwara and his counterparts from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and Canada walked out of the meeting in Bangkok to protest Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

A statement from the office of New Zealand Trade and Export Growth Minister Damien O'Connor said he walked out "in protest at Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has slowed the region's economic recovery from COVID and made it harder for people in the region to get food on their tables. He walked out in good



company." A spokesperson for Canada's Trade Minister Mary Ng confirmed to Global News that the minister walked out of the annual meeting during Russia's intervention. "Canada has already taken many actions to hold Russia accountable for its devastating invasion of Ukraine,

including severe sanctions against Putin and those who enable him - but we must keep the pressure on," the spokesperson said. A U.S. official in Bangkok confirmed the walkout but did not provide further details. He asked not to be identified. There is diplomatic sensitivity over speaking about the

incident because the proceedings were held in closed session. U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai is representing Washington at the meeting.

Ukrainian soldiers surrendering from Mariupol considered prisoners of war. Reuters

Thailand is this year's host nation for meetings of APEC, which comprises 21 economies. The two-day trade-ministers meeting ends Sunday.

The walkout occurred just as Maxim Reshetnikov, Russia's minister for economic development, was set to deliver his opening remarks, said a Southeast Asian diplomat, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said the delegates of the five protesting nations and their staff walked out together in what appeared to be a planned action, and returned after Reshetnikov completed his remarks.

Western nations have imposed tough diplomatic and economic sanctions on Russia because of its invasion of Ukraine, but many of APEC member nations, especially in Southeast Asia and Latin America, have distanced themselves from such moves. The war in Ukraine has had major trade issues because it has disrupted supply chains, especially in the food sector.

APEC was launched in 1989 to boost growth by promoting economic integration and trade among its

Canada bans Chinese tech giant Huawei from 5G network



The federal government has banned Huawei from working on Canada's fifth-generation networks over security concerns - a decision critics say was long overdue.

The move puts Canada in line with key intelligence allies like the United States, which have expressed concerns about the national security implications of giving the Chinese tech giant access to key infrastructure.

The government is also banning ZTE, another Chinese state-backed telecommunications firm. A government policy statement posted online says companies will have until June 28, 2024, to remove or terminate 5G equipment from Huawei and ZTE.

They'll also have to remove or terminate any existing 4G equipment provided by the companies by Dec. 31, 2027. The policy statement says the government expects companies to stop purchasing new 4G or 5G equipment from the companies by September of this year.

"China will comprehensively and seriously evaluate this incident and take all necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies," the Chinese Embassy in Canada said in a statement posted on its website.

China commonly employs such language in commercial disputes, which often does not lead to a firm response from Beijing.

The Canadian government's decision has been a long time coming. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government launched a review of the companies that would be permitted to service 5G networks during its first mandate.

Then-public safety minister Ralph Goodale promised to release a decision on Huawei before the 2019 federal election.

Opposition parties blast government, say decision comes too late. But opposition parties say the government waited far too long to make up its mind.

In a media statement, Conservative public safety critic Raquel Dancho and Gerard Delisle, the party's critic for innovation, science and industry, said the government should have banned Huawei sooner.

"Conservatives repeatedly called on the Trudeau government to do the right thing and listen to security experts and the calls from our allies - but they refused," they said in a statement.

The minister said the legislation

service the new, faster online networks, most of the attention has focused on whether Huawei would be allowed in - and the possible national security implications of giving it access.

The government went largely silent on the review's progress after China imprisoned Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor nearly three years ago - an apparent act of retaliation for the RCMP's arrest of Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou on a U.S. extradition warrant.

The two Canadians returned home last fall, hours after Meng reached a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. government.

Critics have warned that Huawei's participation in Canada's 5G networks could give the company an inside look at how, when and where Canadians use internet-connected devices - and that the Chinese government could force the company to hand over that personal information.

China's National Intelligence Law says Chinese organizations and citizens must support, assist and co-operate with state intelligence work.

Huawei insists it is a fiercely independent company that does not engage in espionage for anyone, including Beijing.

Huawei executive not surprised by ban. In an interview with CBC's Power & Politics, Aiykhan Velshi, vice-president of corporate affairs for Huawei in Canada, said he's not surprised by the decision but is still disappointed.

The government hasn't provided evidence that Huawei is a national security threat, he said. He also questioned what the government will do about scheduled software upgrades for Huawei equipment already installed - something the company is talking to the government about right now, he added.

"I find it hard to believe the government is going to want to suspend those discussions," he told host Vassy Kapelos.

"Our position is we're going to continue supporting Huawei equipment in the network, and that will require a level of ongoing co-operation at the technical level between Huawei and the federal government, not just in the days and weeks ahead but, frankly, in the years ahead for as long as this equipment is part of Canada's telecommunications network."

Velshi said the company has about 1,500 employees in Canada and that most of them work in research and development. They're not affected by the decision, he said.

What you need to know about storm cleanup and where to get help

More than 200,000 customers in the Ottawa-Gatineau region are still without power Monday morning after a destructive, fast-moving storm system. Some communities are opening emergency centres for people who are facing days without power and need help.

Ottawa now has ten of these centres, all open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. All have washrooms and power for charging devices, and all but one have showers.

*CARDIFF Recreation Complex (available Sunday, May 22)
*Finch/Dupuis Recreation Centre, at 2363 Portabella Boulevard
*Howard Davis Community Centre, at 1765 Merivale Road

*Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre, at 3320 Paul Anna Drive
*Plant Recreation Centre, at 930 Somerset Street West
*Richmond Area, at 6095 Perth

Stuart
*J.A. Dulude Arena, at 941 Clyde Avenue
*Bernard-Grodmann Arena, at 309 McArthur Road
*Nevan Memorial Centre, at 1295 Colonial Road
*Water Baker Sports Centre, at 100 Malvern Drive

That city has set up a page with information on its storm response. Chelsea has opened the Meredith Centre at 23 Chemin Cecil until 8:30 p.m. It has showers, water and coffee.

Clarence-Rockland is pointing people to the Clarence Creek Arena at 418 rue Lemaire to get water and charge. The Red Cross is also there to help.

Many businesses and community spaces are also offering their buildings with power for the use of people who have none. Here are some of the other services the shelters are offering.
Travel
On Monday morning, Ottawa listed

about 45 road closures for fallen wires or trees, including the westbound ramps connecting Highway 417 and Hunt Club Road.

The city is asking people to stay off the roads if possible to help with cleaning up and the emergency response.

Power outages have knocked out several hundred traffic lights, according to the city, turning these intersections into four-way stops. Mayor Jim Watson asked drivers to be courteous during an afternoon news conference.

Hydro Ottawa says of outages. OC Transpo lists several routes with delays because of the damage. Some roads in Chelsea are partially or fully blocked by debris. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board told parents in a letter that Cator Valley Elementary School in Greely sustained damage to its roof during the storm and would be closed.

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